

varieties, with the chin and middle of the throat black, as in the Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*), instead of pure white. The knowledge that such individual variation may and does occur should make writers cautious in accepting such a character as of any specific value.

I must mention that the bird figured by Mr. Nelson as *C. sallæi* does not appear to be of that species, but that the photograph does not shew up the characters very clearly.

These are a few instances of the inaccuracy of Mr. Nelson's descriptions; and it is evident that his "intimate knowledge of the topography and geographic distribution" does not necessarily establish his claims as an ornithologist.

I may add that, for those who have not had the advantage of twelve years' travel in Mexico, an exceptionally good atlas, with large maps of each State, is available, viz. Cuba's 'Atlas Geografico y Estadistico de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos' (Mexico, 1886).

XII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

1. 'Annals of Scottish Natural History.'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. No. 43, July 1902, and No. 44, October 1902.]

Mr. T. G. Laidlaw's valuable "Report on the Movements and Occurrence of Birds in Scotland during 1901" is continued in the July number and concluded in that of October. The same remark applies to Mr. Harvie-Brown's contribution to the avifauna of the Outer Hebrides, with the exception that the species treated by him reach no further than the Rallidae, so that we must wait until January for the conclusion of this paper. Every student of the distribution of birds in North Britain will read these articles with attention, but the principal rarities have been already recorded; as regards the minor notices, there are none which call for special remark in these pages.

II. S.

2. *Arrigoni degli Oddi on the Harlequin Duck in Italy.*

[Cattura di due "Cosmonettæ histrionicæ" (*Moretta arlecchino*) per la prima volta in Italia comunicazione di Guido Falconieri di Carpergna per parte del Conte Prof. Ettore Arrigoni degli Oddi. Boll. Soc. Zool. Ital. (ser. 3) Ann. xi, 1902.]

The occurrence of the Harlequin Duck (*Cosmonetta histrionica*) in Italy is now registered for the first time. Two young examples of this high northern form were obtained in the estuary of the Po on the 2nd of March, 1902.

3. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xix. Nos. 3 & 4, July and October 1902.]

In the July number Mr. H. W. Henshaw gives a very interesting account of the species of the genus *Chasiempis* found on the Hawaiian Islands and their distribution over that group. Mr. John Grant Wells follows with an article on the Water-birds of the island of Carriacou, a dependency of Grenada, and situated about twenty miles to the northward of it. Its Land-birds are enumerated in the October part. Owing to the absence of forest, several woodland species found in St. Vincent and Granada are not represented in Carriacou, but its extensive swamps are highly attractive to aquatic and wading birds, and the notes on the species which breed there are of considerable interest. Mr. W. Hubbell Fisher, having had his attention called, by a passage in Mr. F. M. Headley's 'Structure and Life of Birds' (1895), to the use of the bastard wing for checking flight in the domestic Pigeon, has found, from study and photographs taken at Munich, that this natural "break" is also put "hard down" by the Stork when preparing to alight. Dr. Jonathan Dwight's paper on Plumage-cycles and the relation between Plumages and Moults requires close study, and an abstract would hardly do it justice, but his table illustrative of the sequence of these changes has a plausible appearance and may stand the test of extended use. British ornithologists will take especial interest in Mr. O. P. Hay's account of the finding of some bones of the Great Auk in a

large and ancient Indian " midden " on the coast of Florida. The birds to which these bones belonged may possibly have been captured some distance to the northward; but, in any case, this discovery is a strong confirmation of the accuracy of Catesby's statement (1731-43) that the " Penguin " was found in winter off Carolina. Mr. Austin H. Clarke gives a list of 57 species and subspecies of birds obtained on Margarita Island, Venezuela, where Capt. Wirt Robinson found 73 during a longer visit in 1895. The unusual abundance of the Snowy Owl in Canada and New England during the winter of 1901-02 forms the subject of a paper by Mr. Ruthven Deane, and it would appear that exceptionally large flights of this bird occur at intervals of ten or fifteen years; near Belle Isle Strait the fishermen had " been living on them," and outside Toronto many had been taken or shot " while feeding on dead horses or cattle." Among the general notes are records of our Old-World Wigeon in Michigan and an account of the destruction of *Phalaropus fulicarius* on migration by striking a lighthouse in North Carolina. The eleventh Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North-American Birds must be studied by the systematist, and the writer of this review may be pardoned an expression of satisfaction at noticing the elimination of *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*—thanks to the broad views of Prof. J. A. Allen and others.

In the October part, Mr. B. S. Bowdish gives the first portion of a list of the birds of Porto Rico, which he began to study in 1898. Mr. Robert E. Snodgrass has a rather long (15 pp.) paper on the genus *Geospiza* of the Galápagos, the gist of which is that there is no correlation between the food and the size of the bill, and that an explanation of the variation of the Geospizine bill must be sought elsewhere. Mr. E. W. Nelson's " Nomenclature and Validity of certain North-American Gallinæ " brings us to contentious matter between him and Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, and, inasmuch as the remarks of the latter are appearing in our pages, we abstain from offering an opinion, but reference may be made to " Correspondence " in 'The Auk,' p. 419. Mr. W. A. Bryan's

record of occurrences of the Arctic Tern (*Sterna macrura*) in the Hawaiian Islands helps to fill in the links in the chain of distribution of this species. H. S.

4. 'The Avicultural Magazine.'

[The Avicultural Magazine; being the Journal of the Avicultural Society for the Study of Foreign and British Birds. Vol. viii. Nos. 11 and 12, 1902.]

These two parts of the 'Avicultural Magazine' contain a large number of papers of considerable interest, for the most part concerned with but one kind of bird; but Mr. J. L. Bonhote's "Field Notes on some Bahama Birds" is a notable exception. He gives a good idea of the nature of the country and of the habits of the various species.

5. Benham on an Egg of the Moa.

[Note on an Entire Egg of a Moa, now in the Museum of the University of Otago. By W. B. Benham, D.Sc., M.A., F.Z.S. Trans. & Proc. N.Z. Inst. xxxiv. pp. 149-151, pl. vii., 1902.]

The author describes the "absolutely uninjured egg" of a Moa, which was brought up by a "dredge-hand" working on the Barnsleugh gold-dredge in the river Molyneux, Otago, and is now in the Otago Museum. A second egg was obtained by the same man about two months later. Its length was $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches, its breadth $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and its equatorial circumference $16\frac{2}{3}$ inches. The egg is figured on a reduced scale.

6. Berlepsch on new South-American Birds.

[Mitteilungen über neue und seltene südamerikanische Vögel. Von Graf Hans von Berlepsch. Verh. d. V. Intern. Zool. Congr. z. Berlin. Jena, 1902.]

Graf v. Berlepsch describes a new Tinamou, *Nothoprocta fulvescens*, from S.E. Peru (*Garlepp*), and makes remarks on other rare birds from S. America (*Chlorochysa*, *Penelope*, *Ægialitis*, &c.).

7. *Boutourlin on some Birds of Eastern Livonia.*

[Zametki o Nickotorykh Ptitzakh bostotchnoi Liflandii. S. A. Boutourlina. Iz Drevniika Zoologiticheskavootdieleniya Imperatorskavo Obschestvaliubitelci estestvoznaniya, t. iii. no. 3. Moskva, 1902.]

These notes refer to the country round Marienburg in the district of Valk, where it seems that the brown-backed form of the Marsh-Titmouse (*Parus palustris*) is the common species, and not *Parus borealis* as stated by Prof. Menzbier. The Starling of those parts is *Sturnus sophiæ* Bianchi, which, Mr. Boutourlin says, is always distinguishable from *Sturnus vulgaris*. It is also stated that *Mergus serrator* breeds commonly in East-central Livonia, in lat. 57° 26' N. and long. 44° 48' E. H. E. D.

8. *Brewster on North-American Birds.*

[On the Occurrence in Massachusetts of certain rare or interesting Birds. By W. Brewster. Auk, 1901, pp. 135-137.

An Ornithological Mystery. By W. Brewster. *Tom. cit.* pp. 321-328.

An undescribed Form of the Black Duck (*Anas obscura*). By W. Brewster. *Op. cit.* 1902, pp. 183-188.]

In the first of these articles the subjects are *Mareca penelope*, *Nettion crecca*, *Anser albifrons gambeli*, *Rallus crepitans*, *Hematopus palliatus*, and *Stric pratincola*; in the second is contained an account of the voice of an unknown Rail heard at Cambridge, U.S.A.; in the third a new subspecies, *Anas obscura rubripes*, is proposed.

9. *Coburn's Ornithological Expedition to North Iceland.*

[Brief Notes on an Expedition to the North of Iceland in 1899. By F. Coburn. Zool. 1901, pp. 401-419.]

Mr. Coburn gives us a most interesting account of his explorations in the north of Iceland, while the information that he provides shews that new discoveries are still to be made even in countries that have apparently been well worked as regards their ornithology. His observations extend to some sixty-six species of birds, among which may be mentioned a Redwing which has been described as a new form (*Turdus coburni*) by Dr. Sharpe (Bull.

B. O. C. xii. p. 28). Mr. Coburn, moreover, considers the Meadow-Pipit of the island separable from *Anthus pratensis*, as did Faber before him; but more important in our eyes than these identifications are the reports of the breeding of Hornemann's Redpoll and the American Wigeon, coupled with the discovery of the exact nesting-place of the Grey Lag Goose.

10. Coburn on *Anser gambeli*.

[On the Specific Validity of *Anser gambeli* (Hartlaub) and its position as a British Bird. Zool. 1902, pp. 337-351.]

The author expresses his complete agreement with Mr. J. H. Gurney's contention that *Anser gambeli*, *A. albifrons*, and *A. erythropus* are distinct species. He says that, in addition to the fact that *A. gambeli* has a larger and heavier bill and darker under parts than *A. albifrons*, it has also a considerably longer neck. In the immature and breeding stages the birds are much more easily distinguishable than in that of winter, as will be seen from the descriptions given in the article. All the specimens are from Ireland, and shew changes of coloration independent of the moult.

11. 'The Emu.'

[The Emu, a Quarterly Magazine to popularize the Study and Protection of Native Birds. Vol. ii. pts. 1 & 2. July and October, 1902. Melbourne.]

The official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union, edited by Messrs. A. J. Campbell and A. Kendall, continues to make steady progress, and we have now before us the two first numbers of the second volume. Capt. Hutton, of Christchurch, N.Z., contributes a good paper on Penguins; Mr. A. G. Campbell writes of the birds of N.E. Victoria; and Mr. R. Hall continues his notes on a collection from the Fitzroy River in North-western Australia, where many rare species are found. An enormous nest-mound of the Mallee-bird (*Lipoa ocellata*) is described and figured by Mr. Milligan.

12. *Erlanger on the Ornithology of Abyssinia, Galla-land, and Somali-land.*

[Zoogeographie und Ornithologie von Abyssinien den Galla- und Somali-Ländern. Von Carlo, Freiherrn von Erlanger. Ber. Senckenb. nat. Ges. 1902, p. 155.]

This is an address delivered before the Senckenbergian Society of Frankfort-a.-M. by Carlo, Freiherr v. Erlanger, on the 8th of March, 1902, concerning his recent expedition through Somali-land, Galla-land, and Southern Abyssinia. The route is clearly shown on an accompanying map, and the lecture contains much useful information on the geography and ornithology of the various districts traversed. The writer made a large collection of bird-skins—about 8000 in all, referable to some 800 species—concerning which we shall, no doubt, hear much more, when they have been thoroughly worked out. Eight new species have already been described in the ‘Ornithologische Monatsbericht’ (1901, p. 181).

13. *Finn on Abrupt Variation.*

[On some Cases of Abrupt Variation in Indian Birds. By F. Finn, B.A., F.Z.S. J. A. S. B. lxxi. pt. ii. pp. 81–85.]

The author discusses albinistic variation in *Dissemurus paradiseus*, *Æthiopsar fuscus*, *Acridotheres tristis*, and *Machetes pugnax*, and gives a note on *Gallus pseudhemaphroditus* of Blyth.

14. *Fisher on vanishing Game-Birds.*

[Two vanishing Game-Birds: the Woodcock and the Wood Duck. By A. K. Fisher. Reprint from the Yearbook of Department of Agriculture (Washington) for 1901, pp. 447–458.]

The two birds mentioned being in great danger of extinction, attention is called in this paper to the advisability of protecting them, and methods of procedure are suggested. Tables are also given to shew the close and open seasons in the various States.

15. *Gadow on Phalacrocorax harrisi.*

[The Wings and Skeleton of *Phalacrocorax harrisi*. By H. Gadow. Nov. Zool. ix. p. 169.]

Dr. Gadow describes the wings and the skeleton of the great flightless Cormorant of the Galapagos, *Phalacrocorax harrisi*, discovered in 1897 (see *Ibis*, 1900, p. 206), and points out its extraordinary peculiarities.

This Cormorant has the functional primaries reduced to nine and the secondaries to fifteen in number; the bones of the wing, moreover, are much inferior in length and strength to those of the ordinary species. Other differences are carefully pointed out and illustrated by two plates.

16. *Hartert on his Travels and Researches.*

[Aus den Wanderjahren eines Naturforschers. Von Ernst Hartert. II^{te}, III^{te}, & IV^{te} Abschnitt. Nov. Zool. ix. pp. 193-272.]

Mr. Hartert continues, and brings to a conclusion, the very interesting account of his travels and expeditions in various parts of the world, of which we have already noticed the first portion (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1902, p. 150).

The first of the three sections now given relates to Sumatra, Malacca, and India. As regards Sumatra, the author gives a complete list of the birds as yet recorded—from his own researches and those of others—to occur in the vicinity of Deli, and enumerates 212 species, adding many valuable notes. There are no less than nine Hornbills in this district, among which are some of the largest and the most remarkable of the family, such as *Buceros rhinoceros* and *Rhinoplax vigil*. The third chapter of the second section is devoted to Salanga, an island off the south coast of the Malay Peninsula, which the author visited in 1888. It seems to be a most attractive place. Its avifauna had been already worked at by Aug. Müller (*v. J. f. O.* 1882), but Mr. Hartert was able to make some additions.

Mr. Hartert then proceeded to the protected State of Perak (where our friend Sir Hugh Low first introduced the *pax Britannica*) and found it a “paradise for zoologists,”

while it is hardly less attractive to the student of "Wild Man." A visit to Gunong Ijau may be strongly recommended to any traveller in this part of the world. From Calcutta, whither he now proceeded with the late William Doherty, visits were made to some of the most interesting places in British India, and amongst other great sights a view of Kinchinjunga from Darjeeling was obtained, and the wonders of Benares, Agra, Delhi, and Jaipur were inspected. Bird-notes were made at all these places. The return home was effected by Bombay, Aden, and the Suez Canal.

In the third section of his travels Mr. Hartert takes us to the New World, where he visited some of the less-known Caribbee Islands and the adjacent mainland. In May 1892, accompanied by his wife, he crossed the Atlantic to St. Thomas and La Guaira, whence an excursion was made to Caracas. Then the three Dutch West-Indian Islands of Curaçao, Aruba, and Bonaire were thoroughly explored, and materials were accumulated for the excellent memoir on the birds of those islands published in this Journal (*Ibis*, 1893, p. 289). A revised synopsis of the ornithology of the three islands is now given, 56 species being enumerated; while *Coturniculus savannarum caribæus* and *Xanthornus icterus ridgwayi* are introduced as new subspecies.

The fourth and last section of Mr. Hartert's "Naturalist's Journal" gives us an account of his spring-visit to Morocco and Teneriffe in 1901. After touching at Gibraltar and Casablanca, a most interesting excursion into the interior was made from Mazagan, and several scarce birds were met with (e. g., *Francolinus bicalcaratus* and *Comatibis eremita*). From Mazagan our traveller crossed the sea to Teneriffe, and, after a short but enjoyable stay there, returned home by Madeira.

The final chapter of Mr. Hartert's journal is devoted to a review of the birds of Mazagan and Middle Morocco, in which 83 species are treated. Several new "subspecies" are given—*Turdus merula mauritanicus*, *T. m. cabreræ* (from Teneriffe), *Passer hispaniolensis malleæ* (from Malta), and

Galerida cristata riggenbachi (from Mazagan); while a new genus (*Diplooticus*) is proposed for *Ruticilla moussieri*, which, however, in our opinion is quite unnecessary, though the bird certainly has somewhat of the habits of a *Pratincola*.

17. Hartert on the Birds of the Kangean Islands.

[The Birds of the Kangean Islands. By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. ix. p. 419.]

The Kangean Islands lie north of Bali and due east of Madura in the Java Sea. Dr. Vorderman is the only naturalist who has visited them (see Nat. Tijdschr. v. Ned. Ind. lii. 1893). Mr. Prillwitz has now sent a collection to the Tring Museum, upon which the present paper is based. It enumerates 78 species, the majority of which are naturally of Javan origin. *Dicrurus suluensis* from Sulu and *D. dohertyi* from Obi Major are described as new, and *Mixornis prillwitzii*, *M. everetti*, and *M. flavicollis* are figured on plate xiii.

18. Hett on Popular and Local Bird-names.

[A Glossary of Popular, Local, and Old-fashioned Names of British Birds. By Chas. Louis Hett. 12mo. London: Sotheran & Co., 1902. Pp. 114. Price 1s.]

This compilation will be found of considerable use to those who work at British Birds, as the glossary seems fairly exhaustive, while the List of the British Ornithologists' Union is reprinted in addition.

19. Johnston on the Birds of Uganda.

[The Uganda Protectorate, an attempt to give some Description of the Physical Geography, Botany, Zoology, Anthropology, Languages, and History of the Territories under British Protection in East Central Africa, between the Congo Free State and the Rift Valley and between the first Degree of South Latitude and the fifth Degree of North Latitude. By Sir Harry Johnston, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., &c. 2 vols. Royal 8vo. London, 1902. Hutchinson & Co.]

Sir Harry Johnston's Monograph of Uganda is, of course, not a "bird-book" in the ordinary sense of the term; but

it contains a great deal about birds and should be studied by every ornithologist. It is the best illustrated book that we have ever seen, containing more than 500 text-figures taken from drawings and photographs by the author and his friends, besides 48 fully coloured plates prepared by the author, and an instructive set of maps. Many of the coloured plates illustrate characteristic forms of African bird-life, such as *Touracos*, *Barbets*, *Balaniceps*, *Nettapus*, and *Helotarsus*. They are somewhat artistic in treatment, no doubt, but give a much better idea of the appearance of such remarkable forms to the field-naturalist than would be obtained from plates prepared from stuffed specimens.

In the course of his first six chapters the author pilots his readers over one of the most diversified portions of tropical Africa, from the low wastes of the Eastern Province across the Mau Plateau to snowy Ruwenzori and the great Congo Forest. Frequent allusions to birds and their ways will be found throughout, both in the text and in the figures. The account of the climb up Ruwenzori is of the greatest interest. Sir Harry believes that the highest point of this massive range of mountains will be found to reach to an altitude of nearly 20,000 feet, and to be the highest land in Africa. Here is a fine field for the exploring naturalist, as yet almost untouched!

The last chapter of the first volume of Sir Harry's work is devoted to a general sketch of the zoology of Uganda. The avifauna of Uganda is graphically described as follows:—

“The Uganda Protectorate is very rich in birds. In no other part of Africa that I have ever visited has bird-life seemed so abundant and so omni-present. In attempting to describe the landscape in the first chapters of this book, it has been constantly necessary to refer to the bird-element in the scenery. The least observant European sojourner in the Rift Valley must be conscious of the black chats with white patches on their wings, hopping about the settlements, courting, singing, fluttering their wings, and turning back their tails. The flamingos on Lakes Naivasha and Hannington, the colleges of marabout storks, the companies

of crowned cranes, the solitary stalking secretary-bird, the wheeling kites, the griffon-vultures, the black and white Egyptian vultures with yellow beaks and yellow legs, the gorgeous, glossy starlings, with their plumage of iridescent blue-green and copper-red, the brightly coloured or extravagantly plumed widow-finches and weaver-birds are all familiar objects in the landscapes of the Eastern Province. The grey parrots, and the many richly plumed plantain-eaters and turacos in the forests of the Central, Western, and Uganda Provinces, the screaming fish-eagles, the brown *Necrosyrtes* vultures, the grey *Spizaetus* eagles, and the handsome bataleur and black-crested eagles, the sun-birds, barbets, green parrots, green pigeons, blue and mauve rollers are seldom absent from one's sight in the daytime as one traverses the forests and the grassy down-country in Uganda, Toro, Busoga, and Elgon. The shores of the Victoria Nyauza and of the other lakes, the marshes and back-waters of the Nile, are frequented by countless water-birds, by whale-headed storks and saddle-billed storks, by herons of gigantic size or minute rail-like form—herons that are snow-white in many species, or dark slaty blue or fawn-colour; by spur-winged geese, Egyptian geese, knob-nosed ducks, and the exquisite little 'pygmy goose'; by pelicans, cormorants, and darters, to name only a few among the more prominent types."

A "tentative list" of the birds hitherto recorded from the Uganda Protectorate, prepared by Mr. Charles Chubb, and arranged according to the classification of the new 'Hand-list,' contains the names of 771 species, to which many more will, no doubt, have to be added.

20. *Legge on the Birds of Tasmania.*

[Notes on the Birds of Tasmania: Systematic List of Tasmanian Birds. By Col. W. V. Legge, F.L.S., &c. Papers & Proc. R. Soc. Tasmania, 1900-1901, p. 99.]

Our old friend Col. Legge, President of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union, contributes a revised systematic list of the birds of the Colony in which he now resides to

the 'Papers and Proceedings' of the Royal Society of Tasmania. A short preface explains the causes of the poverty of the Tasmanian avifauna.

21. *Madarász on a new Blue-throat.*

[Ein neues Blaukehlchen. Von Dr. Julius v. Madarász. Természet. Füzetek, xxv. p. 489.]

The new *Cyanecula discessa* is founded on five specimens collected by M. Härms in Transcaspia and Persia; it is nearest to *C. suecica*, but the throat is "flax-blue." The range of *C. suecica* is generally considered to extend into Cashmere and Northern India, so it would be curious to find a distinct species in Transcaspia (*cf.* Radde, Orn. Caucas. p. 249).

22. *Mearns on Three new North-American Birds.*

[Descriptions of Three new Birds from the Southern United States. By Edgar A. Mearns. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxiv. pp. 915-926, 1902.]

Two of these forms, *Coturniculus savannarum floridanus* and *Progne subis floridana*, are, as their names denote, from Florida; while the third, *Sitta carolinensis nelsoni*, is from the wooded mountains of Chihuahua and Sonora and of the adjacent States of N. America.

We confess that we are a little uneasy about the rapid growth of the list of North-American "subspecies."

23. *Neumann on the Results of his last African Expedition.*

[Kurze Mitteilung über die zoologischen Resultate meiner Expedition durch Nordost-Afrika, 1900-1901. Von Oscar Neumann. Jena, 1902.]

Herr Neumann gives us here an account of his expedition to the western and southern districts of Abyssinia and Somaliland, of which the fauna has been much less investigated than that of the eastern portions. From Gjidessa and the mountainous woodlands of Gara Mulata to the south-west of Harrar he proceeded to the Erer and Hawash valleys, and so to the Blue Nile and the Kaffa Province. He lays stress on the palaearctic species of birds which he found in the northern

regions visited and on the distribution of the forms found throughout his journey.

24. Neumann on new African Birds.

[Ueber neue und wenig bekannte ostafrikanische Vögel. Von Oscar Neumann. Ornithologische Monatsbericht, 1901, pp. 183-185.

Diagnosen neuer Vogelarten aus Süd-Aethiopien. *Id. op. cit.*, Jan. 1902.

Neue afrikanische Vögel. *Id. op. cit.*, Sept. 1902.]

In the first article the author discusses the differences between *Mesopicus spodocephalus* Rüpp. and *M. rhodogaster* Fisch. & Reich., and describes as new *Dendropicus nandensis* from Nandi, E. Africa, and *Calamocichla jacksoni* from Entebbe, Uganda.

In the second he gives diagnoses of *Francolinus nigrosquamatus* sp. n., *Dendromus niger* sp. n., *D. permistus kaffensis* subsp. n., *Amblyospiza ethiopica* sp. n., *Muscicapa reichenowi* sp. n., *Chloropeta natalensis umbriniceps* subsp. n., and *Zosterops kaffensis* sp. n.

In the third article *Astur tachiro nyansæ* is described as a new subspecies from Victoria Nyanza, and *Zosterops smithi* as a new species from Somali-land.

25. Newton's 'Ootheca Wolleyana.'

[Ootheca Wolleyana: an Illustrated Catalogue of the Collection of Birds' Eggs formed by the late John Wolley, Jun., M.A., F.Z.S. Edited from the Original Notes by Alfred Newton.—Part II. Picariæ—Passeres. London: Porter, 1902.]

Many of our readers will be as pleased as we were when we heard that Professor Newton was engaged in finishing the first volume of the 'Ootheca Wolleyana,' the former portion of which was issued in 1864, so that the volume is now completed.

In the first portion of the 'Ootheca' the Accipitres and Striges were treated. In the second we have an account of the eggs of the Picariæ and Passeres in the Wolley Collection. We have also, as an introduction, a memoir of Wolley, which will be read with interest by all ornithologists.

Following the plan pursued in the former portion of the work, after the scientific and English name of each species Prof. Newton states the "clutches" or lots of its eggs contained in the Wolley Collection, and their number, and the exact date and locality at which they were procured, together with the authority. Other particulars are added where they can be given, especially extracts from Wolley's note-books—which in special cases are very full.

It must be understood that, although many other localities have furnished eggs for the 'Ootheca,' a very large proportion of them are from Wolley's original collections made in Lapland. Among the well-known names, which we find quoted as authorities, are those of Salvin, Tristram, Simpson, Lilford, Pastor Theobald, Hancock, and others. Altogether in the first volume 2797 sets or clutches of eggs are catalogued, with accompanying notes. It is hardly necessary to say that the whole of the letterpress is compiled and arranged with the care and correctness habitual to the Author of this work. Four excellent coloured plates illustrate some of the most noticeable eggs described. Besides these there are four lithographic views of scenery connected with bird-life, amongst which (Memoir, p. xxxv) is a view of Eldey Island, supposed to be the last home of the Great Auk. The frontispiece of the volume is an excellent portrait of John Wolley.

26. North on *Eremiornis*.

[Note on *Eremiornis carteri*. By Alfred J. North. Vict. Nat. xix. No. 5, Sept. 1902.]

Mr. North contends that the genus *Eremiornis* may fairly claim to be distinct from the allied Indian form *Schœnicola*, and figures the lower surfaces of skins of both forms taken from photographs (*cf.* Ibis, 1902, p. 608).

27. North on *Malurus leucopterus*.

[Note on *Malurus leucopterus* Quoy and Gaimard. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S., Ornithologist. Records Austral. Mus. iv. pp. 209, 210.]

Mr. North shews that the *Malurus* of New South Wales,

referred by Gould (B. Austr.) to *M. leucopterus* Q. et G., has been wrongly identified, and should be called *Malurus cyanotus* Gould (Handb. B. Austr. i. p. 331, 1885), an alternative name proposed in case the bird of New South Wales should prove to be distinct. *M. edouardi*, recently described as new (Campbell, Vict. Nat. xvii. p. 203), is probably the same as the true *M. leucopterus*.

28. Oberholser on the Horned Larks.

[A Review of the Larks of the Genus *Otocorys*. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxiv. pp. 801-884, 1902.]

Mr. Oberholser reviews the species of Larks of the genus *Otocorys* (which he persists in mis-spelling *Otocoris*), and gives us a useful and instructive paper, although we can hardly believe that it would be possible to distinguish examples of some of his subspecies satisfactorily. The author allows only six species of the genus—*O. alpestris*, *O. atlas* (doubtfully), *O. longirostris*, *O. bilopha*, *O. penicillata*, and *O. berlepschi*, but “chops up” *O. alpestris* into twenty-three, *O. longirostris* into four, and *O. penicillata* into five subspecies. Our North-European species is called *O. alpestris flava*, while the name *O. alpestris alpestris* is assigned to the North-American bird. Now no one would accuse our friend Dr. Bowdler Sharpe of being a “lumper,” yet he quotes with approval (Cat. B. xiii. p. 544) the *dictum* of Mr. Henshaw that “the large Horned Lark of N. Europe cannot be separated from that of N. America.” Mr. Oberholser is of the contrary opinion, and this may perhaps make us hesitate to accept some of his seven new subspecies (*OO. aa. arcticola, enthymia, diaphora, actia, amorphila, aphrasta*, and *leucansiptila* from various parts of the North-American Continent) without further enquiry.

29. Pigott on London Birds.

[London Birds and other Sketches. By T. Digby Pigott, C.B., M.B.O.U. New Edition, revised and enlarged. London: Edward Arnold, 1902. 8vo. 256 pp. Price 6s.]

Mr. Digby Pigott kindly sends us a copy of the new

edition of his 'London Birds,' of which we formerly noticed the first issue (*Ibis*, 1893, p. 270). A pretty drawing by Mr. Thorburn of the "Cormorants' Rock" in St. James's Park forms an appropriate frontispiece to the present edition, and there are six other illustrations of bird-life. Several new chapters are added.

30. *Reichenow's 'Birds of Africa.'*

[Die Vögel Afrikas von Ant. Reichenow. Zweiter Band, Erste Hälfte. 4to. Neudamm, 1902. Pp. 384. Price 50s.]

The first half of the second volume of Dr. Reichenow's important work 'Die Vögel Afrikas' (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1901, pp. 142, 732) was issued in August last. It commences with the Psittacidae, after which follow the Musophagidae, Cuculidae, and other Picarians in order up to the Cypselidae, which are not quite finished. Altogether about 370 species are treated in the present half-volume. A few subspecies are introduced, not numbered as species, but designated *a*, *b*, *c*, &c.

Attached to this half-volume is an Atlas with three maps, and an alphabetical list of the localities designated in them, together with references to the places where they are to be found in the maps, and the names of the collectors who visited them. All this will be a very useful addition to the work, and, as we understand, will ultimately form a separate volume along with the coloured plates. Of these plates, five are given with the present part, representing *Macropygia fuelleborni*, *M. aurantiigula*, *Picathartes oreas*, *P. gymnocephalus*, *Penthetria psammocromia*, *Ploceus rufo-niger*, *Symplectes tephronotus*, *Turacus schuetti*, *T. emini*, *Podica senegalensis*, and *P. camerunensis*.

The species of African birds registered so far in the work are 929. We suppose that the Passeres still remaining will amount to at least as many more.

31. *Richmond on new Birds from Siam.*

[Descriptions of Two new Birds from Trong, Lower Siam. By Charles W. Richmond. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xv. p. 157 (1902).]

Two new birds from a collection made by Dr. W. L. Abbott in the province of Trong, Lower Siam, are described and named *Stachyris chrysops* and *Oreocincla horsfieldi affinis* respectively.

32. Richmond on a new Goatsucker.

[Description of a new Subspecies of *Stenopsis cayennensis* from Curaçao. By Charles W. Richmond. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xv. p. 159 (1892).]

The *Stenopsis* of Curaçao is separated as a new subspecies, *S. cayennensis insularis*, from a specimen sent to the U.S. National Museum by Capt. Wirt Robinson.

33. Richmond on new Birds from the Sumatran Islands.

[Descriptions of Eight new Birds from Islands off the West Coast of Sumatra. By Charles W. Richmond. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xv. p. 187 (1902).]

Dr. W. L. Abbott has forwarded to the U.S. National Museum a collection of several hundred bird-skins from various islands off the west coast of Sumatra. Amongst them are examples of eight species presumed to be new, which are described and named as follows:—*Macropygia simalurensis*, *Psittinus abbotti*, *Thriponax parvus*, and *Hypothymis consobrina*, from Simalur Island; *Palaornis major* and *Hypothymis abbotti* from Pulo Babi; *Malacopteron notatum* from Pulo Bang-karu; and *Stachyris bangakensis* from Pulo Tuanku.

34. Rothschild on Birds from Russian Turkestan.

[List of a Collection of Birds made south of the Issik-kul in Russian Turkestan. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild. Nov. Zool. ix. p. 161.]

A collection made by Mr. A. Taneré in Anklam, south of Lake Issik-kul, contained examples of 68 species, among which were some of considerable interest. Notes on these and their allies are furnished. Mr. Rothschild maintains the distinctness of the Eastern Missel-Thrush as a subspecies—*Turdus viscivorus bonapartei*.

35. *Rothschild and Hartert on the Fauna of the Galapagos.*

[Further Notes on the Fauna of the Galapagos Islands. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild and Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. ix. p. 373.]

Besides most interesting additions to our knowledge of the Giant Tortoises of the Galapagos, this paper contains a series of notes on the birds recently obtained by Mr. Beck and other collectors, and concludes with a revised list of the species now known of this most remarkable avifauna. They are 108 in number. The whole of the Passeres (61), except *Hirundo erythrogastra* (a migrant) and *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (an accidental visitant), are peculiar to the group. *Corvus corax clarionensis*, from Clarion Island, and *Speotyto cunicularia becki*, from Guadeloupe Island, are new subspecies. A good coloured figure is given of the flightless Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax harrisi*).

36. *Salvadori on a new Lark.*

[Nuova specie del genere *Ammomanes*. [Per] Tommaso Salvadori. Boll. Mus. Zool. ed Anat. Torino, xvii. no. 425.]

The author bases *Ammomanes assabensis*, sp. nov., on two specimens from Assab, on the western coast of the Red Sea, in the Museum of Turin, and a third in the Museum of the University of Rome. It is allied to *A. deserti*, *A. saturata*, and *A. akeleyi*.

37. *Seth-Smith on Parrakeets.*

[Parrakeets: being a practical Handbook to those Species kept in Captivity. By David Seth-Smith, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. Part 2. August, 1902. R. H. Porter: London. Pp. 41-80 and 3 plates. Price 6s. net.]

The present part contains the genera *Conurus*, *Conuropsis*, *Cyanolyseus*, *Henicognathus*, *Microsittace*, *Pyrrhura*, *Myopsittacus*, *Bolborhynchus*, *Psittacula*, and *Brotogeris*, and gives—sometimes in considerable detail—the habits, food, and so forth. Coloured figures are given of *Conurus aruginosus*, *C. cactorum*, *Cyanolyseus patagonicus*, *Pyrrhura leucotis*, and *P. perlata*.

38. *Simon on Peruvian Trochilidæ.*

[Etude sur les Trochilidés observés au Pérou par G. A. Baer. Par Eugène Simon. Nov. Zool. ix. p. 177.]

In his journey through Eastern Peru, principally in the basin of the Huallaga, the entomological collector Baer obtained a series of Trochilidæ, which are referred to 25 species by M. Simon. *Metallura theresiæ* is described as new, and appears to be quite a distinct species. *Psalidoprymna gouldi chlorura* of Hartert (Tierr. p. 183) is renamed *P. pallidiventris*, and is represented as being allied to *P. gouldi* and *P. gracilis*, but is stated not to be the same as *Lesbia chlorura* of Gould.

39. *Winge on the Birds of the Danish Lighthouses, 1901.*

[Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1901. 19de Aarsberetning om danske Fugle. Ved Herluf Winge. Vidensk. Medd. f. d. naturh. Foren. i Kbhvn. 1902, pp. 259-323.]

This is the annual report on the birds met with at the Danish lighthouses (*cf.* Ibis, 1902, p. 163), and is illustrated by the usual excellent map, which shews the exact positions of the lights. In 1901, 670 specimens referable to 61 species were sent from 31 lighthouses to the Zoological Museum. A list of the species and various notes are given.

XIII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters addressed to "The Editors":—

SIRS,—I was pleased to see the figure of the courting Robin in 'The Ibis' (1902, p. 678); for although I have for a good many years been familiar with this peculiar attitude as assumed by the Robin, I have never before seen a representation of it in any publication. As Mr. Ogilvie-Grant states that he does not find this courting habit mentioned in any book on British birds, may I refer him to